



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/46/129
9 March 1992

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 98

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721 and Corr.1)]

46/129. Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and its determination to promote social progress and better standards of living in greater freedom,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Bearing in mind equally that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling that, in accordance with Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization shall promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being that are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and that, in accordance with Article 56, all Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55,

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Reiterating that Member States should continue to act in the human rights field in conformity with the provisions of the Charter,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Reaffirming its resolution 45/163 of 18 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 32/130 of 16 December 1977, 37/200 of 18 December 1982, 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and 43/155 of 8 December 1988,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 2131 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and 36/103 of 9 December 1981,

Bearing in mind also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/79 of 6 March 1991, 3/

Taking note of the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in the annex to its resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991, 3/ that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, being guided by a spirit of consensus, should make suggestions aimed at ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues in United Nations human rights forums,

Aware of the fact that the promotion, protection and full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as legitimate concerns of the world community should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No.2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

1. Reiterates that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. Reaffirms that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States in cooperation with the Organization to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. Calls upon all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with this international legal framework;

4. Considers that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights, to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. Affirms that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as legitimate concerns of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. Expresses its conviction that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. Underlines, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

8. Invites Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, as well as international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. Requests the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-eighth session, to continue to examine ways and means to strengthen United Nations action in this regard, on the basis of the present resolution and of Commission resolution 1991/79;

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10. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, in responding to the request in paragraph 8 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/79, to comment also on the present resolution and on ways and means to strengthen United Nations action in this regard, in time for the transmission of their comments to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights and the regional conferences for their consideration;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights with the United Nations documentation relevant to the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991



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2 March 1992

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721 and Corr.1)]

- 46/130. Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Also recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling the principle enshrined in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes that nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the Charter,

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Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa for the elimination of apartheid and for the establishment of a society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irrespective of race, colour or creed, will enjoy equal and full political and other rights and participate freely in the determination of their destiny,

Also reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of all peoples under colonial and foreign domination, particularly the Palestinian people, for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, which will enable them to decide freely on their own future,

Recognizing that the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State should be respected in the holding of elections,

Also recognizing that there is no single political system or single model for electoral processes equally suited to all nations and their peoples, and that political systems and electoral processes are subject to historical, political, cultural and religious factors,

Recalling its resolutions 44/147 of 15 December 1989 and 45/151 of 18 December 1990,

1. Reiterates that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right, freely and without external interference, to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;
2. Reaffirms that it is the concern solely of peoples to determine methods and to establish institutions regarding the electoral process, as well as to determine the ways for its implementation according to their constitutional and national legislation;
3. Also reaffirms that any activities that attempt, directly or indirectly, to interfere in the free development of national electoral processes, in particular in the developing countries, or that intend to sway the results of such processes, violate the spirit and letter of the principles established in the Charter and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
4. Recognizes that there is no universal need for the United Nations to provide electoral assistance to Member States, except in special circumstances such as cases of decolonization, in the context of regional or international peace processes or at the request of specific sovereign States, by virtue of resolutions adopted by the Security Council or the General Assembly in each individual case, in strict conformity with the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;
5. Urges all States to respect the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the sovereign right of peoples to determine their political, economic and social system;

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6. Strongly appeals to all States to refrain from financing or providing, directly or indirectly, any other form of overt or covert support for political parties or groups and from taking actions to undermine the electoral processes in any country;

7. Condemns any act of armed aggression or threat or use of force against peoples, their elected Governments or their legitimate leaders;

8. Solemnly declares that only the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic society based on majority rule, through the full and free exercise of adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa, can lead to a just and lasting solution to the situation in South Africa;

9. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of all peoples under colonial and foreign domination, particularly the Palestinian people, for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, which will enable them to determine their political, economic and social system, without interference;

10. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-eighth session, to give priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721 and Corr.1)]

46/131. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling its resolution 45/136 of 14 December 1990, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

Encouraged by the efforts being made by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to study relevant developments affecting the implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/27 of 2 March 1990 ^{1/} and Economic and Social Council decision 1990/229 of 25 May 1990, by which the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate was extended for two years,

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

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Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Emphasizing that non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups at every level have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief by, inter alia, engaging in the examination of the most effective means to promote the implementation of the Declaration,

Conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of religion and belief,

Seriously concerned that intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief continue to occur in many parts of the world and that in some respects the incidence thereof has increased,

Believing that further efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recalling that 1991 marks the tenth anniversary of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Declaration and that this provides an opportunity to reinforce efforts aimed at the effective implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling also that the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the working paper prepared by Mr. Theo van Boven, 2/ member of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which contained a compilation of provisions relevant to the elimination of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as well as the issues and factors to be considered before any drafting of a further binding international instrument, and emphasizing, in this connection, the relevance of General Assembly resolution 41/120 of 4 December 1986 entitled "Setting international standards in the field of human rights",

1. Reaffirms that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. Urges States, therefore, in accordance with their respective constitutional systems and with such internationally accepted instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 4/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, to provide, where they have not already done so, adequate constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief;

2/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/32.

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

4/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3. Urges all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and, in this context, to examine where necessary the supervision and training of members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, they respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

4. Calls upon all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief, and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;

5. Also calls upon all States in accordance with their national legislation to exert utmost efforts to ensure that religious places and shrines are fully respected and protected;

6. Urges all States to consider, in the context of the tenth anniversary in 1991 of the proclamation of the Declaration by the General Assembly, what further measures might be taken at the national and regional levels to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration;

7. Invites the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

8. Considers it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure, especially in the context of the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of the Declaration, that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;

9. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration, in all the official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

10. Encourages the continued efforts on the part of the Special Rapporteur appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

11. Recommends that the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion be given appropriate priority in the work of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, with regard to, inter alia, the drafting of basic legal texts in conformity with international instruments on human rights and taking into account the provisions of the Declaration;

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12. Welcomes the announced intention of the Human Rights Committee to prepare a general comment on article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, dealing with freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

13. Welcomes also the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing in the implementation of the Declaration and in the dissemination of its text in national and local languages;

15. Urges all States to consider disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in national and local languages;

16. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

17. Decides to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its forty-seventh session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721 and Corr.1)]

46/132. Situation in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the Organization promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government",

Recalling that the Government of Myanmar has assured the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies of its intention to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the elections held in 1990,

Noting with concern substantive available information indicating a grave human rights situation in Myanmar,

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- 1/ Resolution 217 A (III).
2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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Welcoming the statement by the Secretary-General on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Aung San Suu Kyi and his repeated appeals for her early release from house arrest,

1. Notes the assurances of the Government of Myanmar to take firm steps towards the establishment of a democratic State and looks forward to the early implementation of this commitment;

2. Expresses its concern at the information on the grave human rights situation and stresses the need for an early improvement of this situation;

3. Urges the Government of Myanmar to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-seventh session.

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17 December 1991